

INTRODUCTION

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's Floodplain Management Program promotes common sense planning for development in flood prone areas for the benefit of public health, safety, and welfare.

Almost every county in Montana has been affected by flooding. Since the early 1970's, 51 of Montana's 56 counties have presidential disaster declarations as a result of flooding caused by severe storms, heavy rains and/or ice jams.

A. Using the Modules

These training modules are primarily designed for floodplain administrators, but are also useful to city and county elected officials, and to those who work or live in and around floodplain areas. The modules explain local administration of floodplain management regulations. They are intended as a quick reference when answering questions from staff or the general public.

They provide an overview of the minimum requirements for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as well as the minimum regulatory standards for local government in the Montana Floodplain and Floodway Management Act (76.5) and associated Administrative Rules (36.15). Recommendations are made throughout the text to better protect people and property and to make the job of floodplain management less challenging.

The index is laid out in a user-friendly format, and will be updated with new information and changes in the future. The index was developed to parallel the structure of the model ordinance to ensure ease of use. The most recent version of the draft model ordinance is dated February 20, 2014 and may be accessed on the Floodplain Management website: www.mtfloodplain.mt.gov

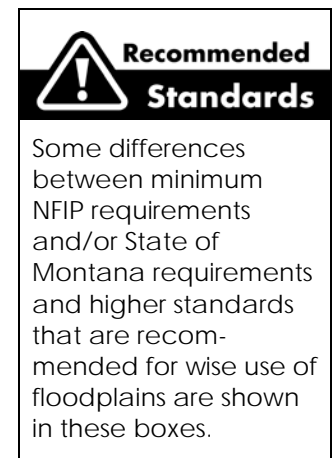
B. Special Highlights

Note the boxes in the margins: the purpose of these sidebars is to highlight several types of information. When the **State** outline appears, the information relates specifically to Montana.



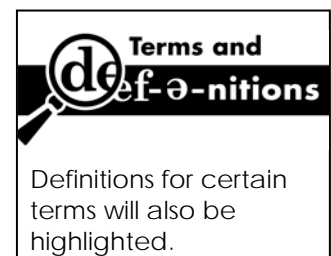
Examine the **Recommended Standards** boxes for differences between the minimum national standards and Montana standards.

The **light bulb** indicates that information in the text is particularly important, and the **magnifying glass** explains certain definitions. It would be beneficial to read these sections twice.



C. When You Need Help

Although these modules are intended to be comprehensive, individual situations may occur that will require additional guidance. The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (MT DNRC) Floodplain Program staff, including Regional Engineering Specialists and the State NFIP Coordinator, are available to provide assistance. When necessary the State and Local Community can also



seek opinions and interpretations from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Flood insurance inquiries are increasingly more frequent for communities. FEMA and other resources are available to communities in navigating flood insurance questions.

D. Module Overview

Module Summaries (to be incorporated after module completion)

Appendices: (to be developed)

The training modules in their entirety are available on the Floodplain Management Section's website: (www.mtfloodplain.mt.gov).